GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4055
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE OF BIO-DIVERSITY
Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken for protection of indigenous knowledge of bio-diversity in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to protect especially the wealth of knowledge possessed by the `adivasis` and rural folks developed over generations and passed on orally ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE && TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a), (b) & (c).Yes Madam; some Central Ministries/Departments/ Institutions have already taken various steps for protection of indigenous knowledge of bio-diversity in India. In order to prevent misappropriation of traditional knowledge and biopiracy, a database is being jointly created by National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the form of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL). The TKDL once accepted with a non-disclosure agreement by International Patent Offices will prevent the misappropriation of the traditional knowledge. Based on the survey of tribal areas, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) have documented the knowledge on medicinal uses of plants and tribal folk medicine in the form of various publications. The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow and National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow are conducting awareness programmes among rural people by setting up and maintaining demonstration plots of medicinal plants, organizing melas, demonstration and lectures at village and district level. The Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jorhat has also brought out a publication on herbal medicines of Manipur.